The use of "circle" versus "encircle" in children's textbooks is a common topic of discussion among educators and language enthusiasts alike. When it comes to circling the correct answer, it is essential to understand the difference between these two verbs. Circle, in this context, means to draw a circle around something with a pen or pencil. For instance, one might write "the correct answer" and then encircle it with a circle. However, the verb "encircle" has a different meaning altogether. It implies forming a rough circle around something or someone, often used actively or inactively. In other words, if trees were to surround a village, we would say that the trees have encircled the village. In terms of usage, some argue that the sentence should be passive, allowing for the use of "encircle". For example: "The correct answer has been encircled." or "Please look at my note/comment encircled above." On the other hand, others claim that when a student is instructed to circle an answer, they are indeed drawing a real circle around it. In this case, using "circled" would be more accurate. Despite the debate, Joseph provides a clear solution: only use "encircle" in sentences where the subject has already been circled, and reserve "circled" for instances where the action is being described.